



United States Attorney District of Maryland

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TWO ELLICOTT CITY BUSINESS OWNERS INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO HARBOR ILLEGAL ALIENS, EMPLOYMENT OF ILLEGAL ALIENS AND MONEY LAUNDERING

Baltimore, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today a federal grand jury indicted Bao Ping Wang, age 38, and his wife, Trang Lu, age 40, both of Ellicott City, Maryland for conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens, employment of illegal aliens, and money laundering. The 3-count indictment charges that Wang and Lu owned and operated wholesale frozen food suppliers named Chang Jiang Seafood Supplier Inc. ("Chang Jiang") and Arctic Seafood Inc. which provided food to Chinese restaurants and groceries in Baltimore, Atlanta and other locations in the mid-Atlantic area.

According to the indictment, the defendants purchased a warehouse at 800-810 South Caton Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland in October 2000 which was thereafter occupied by Chang Jiang. The indictment alleges that from October 1998 to September 28, 2004 Wang and Lu housed and/or concealed aliens and undocumented workers of Chinese nationality employed by Chang Jiang at the warehouse, and from July 2002 to September, 2004 employed aliens and undocumented workers at their businesses. The indictment further alleges that Wang and Lu owned 91.8% of Arctic Seafood,

Inc. located in Atlanta, Georgia and housed aliens and undocumented workers who were employed at Arctic Seafood Inc. at that location.

In connection with the employment of numerous Chinese illegal aliens at Chang Jiang and Arctic Seafood Inc., the indictment further alleges that from October 24, 2000 to September 28, 2004 the defendants conducted financial transactions involving the proceeds of the unlawful conspiracy to harbor these aliens and to induce the aliens to remain in the United States.

The maximum penalty for both conspiracy to harbor illegal aliens and employment of illegal aliens is 10 years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and restitution. The maximum penalty for money laundering is 20 years in prison, a fine and restitution. The United States also seeks forfeiture of \$3,000,000 and real property.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

The criminal charges in this indictment are the result of a joint investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigations Division, the Baltimore City Police Department and the United States Attorney's Office.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven H. Levin.